Disney COMICS

DUCK

DONALD

SUPER DUCK

ROBOPHOBIA

ISSUE 05

SMILES AND WORDS, TWO YEARS AGO.

THE MAYOR SMILED AND DECREED...

RO-BIT IS NOT JUST A ROBOT! IT'S A *GUARANTEE!*

THE SHERIFF SMILED AND ASSURED...

RO-BIT IS TRULY A MODEL CITIZEN!

THE CHILD SMILED AND CHANTED...

RO-BIT IS A PLAYING COMPANION!

THE OLD LADY SMILED AND CRACKLED...

HELPS ME GO SHOPPING!

RO-BIT DIDN'T SMILE OR SPEAK. HE JUST STOOD THERE, AS SYMBOL.

ANTIQUE DESIGN AND FUTURE TECHNOLOGY, MODERNITY AND TRADITION. RO-BIT WAS THE ACTUAL SYMBOL OF THE CITY: *PLACIDY*.

EVEN PLACIDY SMILED AND SHOWED ITS ARCHITECTURAL TEETH.

EVEN PLACIDY SPOKE, OR MORE ACCURATELY, SANG ITS SOLAR PERFECTION.

SMILES AND WORDS, AT LEAST UNTIL YESTERDAY...

PLACIDY

WELCOME TO PLACIDY THE RO-BIT'S TOWN

ROBOPHOBIA

Walt Disney

PLACIDY, TODAY!

MOW MOW

TOW TOW TOW TO

I WANT THE *MARKSMEN* ON THE ROOF! IF THAT THING TAKES OUT THE MUZZLE...

TOW TOW

UEEEEEEEEE

A REAL *MONSTER!* I ALWAYS KNEW THAT WE COULDN'T TRUST IT!

YOU'RE ASKING ME IF IT'S *DANGEROUS?* DO YOU KNOW THE *DAMAGE* THAT IT HAS CAUSED?

IT THREW ME ON THE GROUND! IT WANTED TO *HURT* ME!

INCREDIBLE!

THE PEOPLE HAVE RIGHT TO KNOW!

YOU'RE WRONG, MY FRIEND! PEOPLE PREFER TO STAY *IGNORANT!*

YOU'RE NICE, *GORILLA* IN UNIFORM, BUT NOW I HAVE TO GET THROUGH!

SOCK TUMP

HEY, *SMASHMAN!* WHAT'S GOING ON?

ANOTHER JOURNALIST TRYING TO GET ACROSS THE BLOCK-ADE, SHERIFF COLBERT!

?

FILM EVERYTHING, CAMERA 9! FILM EVERY-THING!

WE WERE SAYING, MISS...

LAY! LYLA LAY!

I REMEMBER YOU! YOU DID THE FIRST REPORT ON RO-BIT, TWO YEARS AGO!

RIGHT, BUT AT THAT TIME YOU HAD A *DIFFERENT* OPINION OF THE ROBOT!

AT THAT TIME, IT DIDN'T GO AROUND *DESTROYING MY CITY!*

MAYBE IT THOUGHT THAT, UNCOVERING THE ROOFS, THE *TRUE* PLACIDY WOULD HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED!

MISS LAY, WE LET YOU THROUGH BE-CAUSE I THOUGHT WE KNEW YOU...

... AND I *HOPED* THAT YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT A *CAMERAMAN!*

FRUSH

UMM! HELLO!

QUACK!

STUMP

IF THESE TWO COME CLOSE TO THE TOWN HALL, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, SMASH-MAN!

YES, SHERIFF! EVEN IF I DON'T LIKE *HITTING WOMEN!*

IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO ME, JUST KNOW THAT YOU ARE IN FOR A *SUR-PRISE!*

TSK! WHAT A BUNCH OF LOSERS! YOUR CAMERAMAN DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO HIDE HIMSELF!

HEY, KIWI FACE! I DIDN'T HIDE AND I'M NOT A CAMERAMAN!

ANYWAY, I DON'T THINK THAT YOU HAD MUCH SUCCESS EITHER, ANGUS...

THE FACT IS THAT TWO TROUPES FROM CHANNEL OO ARE TOO MUCH!

OH, LEAVE ME ALONE!

ARE YOU OKAY, LYLA

YES, DONALD! I JUST NEED TO RE-PROGRAM MY MNEMONIC FILES!

DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU HAVE TO PUT YOUR FILES IN ORDER?

RIGHT! I HAVE WHAT YOU BIOLOGICALS WOULD CALL A FEROCIOUS HEADACHE!

"SO I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WHEN I RECEIVED THE NEWS!"

KNOCK! KNOCK! CAN I COME IN?

TOM WATERMAN! IS IT POSSIBLE TO SAY NO TO THE VICE-DIRECTOR OF CHANNEL OO?

YOU KNOW WHAT? I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT RO-BIT DID ALL OF THIS!

IF IT'S FOR THIS, YOU *ALWAYS* TELL ME NO!

RIGHT! SPEAKING OF WHICH, I CAN'T GO TO *LUNCH* WITH YOU! I NEED TO FINISH A PRO-GRAM!

KNOCK! KNOCK! MAY I COME IN?

DONALD DUCK! HOW NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN! IT'S BEEN SO LONG...

HUH? BUT YOU CALLED ME TO ASK ME TO GO TO *LUNCH?*

HA, HA! ALWAYS THE SAME JOKER! YOU MAKE ME ROAR WITH LAUGHTER!

SOMETIMES I WONDER IF YOU ARE *AVOIDING* ME, LYLA!

HOW COULD I DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT? THE OFFICE IS SMALL!

ANYWAY, I WAS CALLING YOU FOR SOMETHING ELSE.

DO YOU REMEMBER *PLAC-IDY?*

... AND IT SEEMS THAT IT WAS *RO-BIT,* THE WORLDWIDE SENSATION FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS...

... IT'S COMPLETELY GONE HAYWIRE AND HAS DESTROYED A BIG PART OF PLACIDY'S PROPERTY, AND THEN...

NEWS

... *BARRICADE* ITSELF IN THE TOWN HALL, ALONG WITH A *HOSTAGE*!

I-IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!

AND FROM WHAT *FANGUS* SAID BEFORE HE HEADED DOWN THERE!

YOU... YOU SENT ANGUS?

YOU KNOW THAT RO-BIT WAS YOUR FIRST AND, MOST IMPORTANT REPORT OF YOUR CAREER, BUT...

YOU SENT ANGUS IN MY PLACE?

TOM WATERMAN, YOU OWE ME A FAVOR!

TRY TO UNDERSTAND! EVEN IF I WANTED TO, I DON'T HAVE A CAMERAMAN AVAILABLE...

?

?

AM I MISTAKEN OR DOES SOMEONE NEED A *FREELANCE* TECHNICIAN?

FORTUNATELY YOU'VE HAD A LOT OF *EXPERIENCE* AS A CAMERAMAN!

IF YOU MEAN EXPLOITING THE PRIVATE NETWORKS OF MY UNCLE CAN BE CALLED EXPERI-ENCE...

CHANNEL

CHANNEL

IN ANY CASE, I THINK THAT I CAN BE USEFUL IN A DIFFERENT WAY!

YOU THINK THAT THIS IS A JOB FOR *SUPER-DUCK*, AM I RIGHT?

GULP! ONE! TURN OFF IMMEDIATELY! DO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO *SEE* YOU?

SUCH QUESTIONS! OF COURSE! HOLOGRAMS ARE FOR *REVEALING OURSELVES!*

CHANNEL

WELL, THIS IS NOT THE MOMENT *TO RE... REVEAL...*

TO REVEAL YOURSELF! TO APPEAR! TO SHOW YOURSELF! TO MAKE YOURSELF NOTED!

EVERYTHING OKAY HERE?

CLIC

P.P.L.

UMM! OF COURSE! WHY? DID YOU SEE SOMETHING STRANGE?

BAH! MOVE OUT OF THE WAY! ACCORDING TO THE TERMS OF THE *PRESS CONFERENCE*, WE WANT EVERYONE OUT ON FOOT!

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO *BIRGIT Q!*

GENTLEMEN, *MAYOR MOR-RI-SON...*

MISS Q REPRESENTS *ROBOLAB*, THE COMPANY THAT PRODUCED RO-BIT!

SHE IS HERE TO HELP WITH OUR PROBLEM!

EXACTLY! OUR *SPECIAL FORCES* ARE ALREADY SUPPORTING THE LOCAL POLICE!

ROBOLAB GOT A CLEAN SLATE FROM THE COMPETENCE AUTHORITY? THEY MUST BE *VERY POWERFUL!*

ONLY THOSE WOULD CREATED THE ROBOT KNOW *WHO* AND *WHAT* TO DO! ON THIS I AM SURE YOU WILL BE IN AGREEMENT, MISTER...

ANGUS FANGUS, OF CHANNEL OO! AND I AM NEVER IN AGREEMENT! *ON PRINCIPLE!*

CAN YOU TELL ME HOW *YOUR* ROBOT HAS DE-STROYED HALF OF THE CITY?

IT'S *ONLY* A MACHINE, MISTER FANGUS!

WHEN THE MASS MEDIA SAYS THAT IT HAS GONE OFF-TRACK, THEY AREN'T MISTAKEN!

NICE PUBLICITY STUNT! BECAUSE RO-BIT WAS CREATED TO *PUBLICIZE* ROBOLAB, RIGHT?

ALL OF PLACIDY DID *TESTIMONIALS* ON NUMEROUS COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS!

RIGHT! THE PERFECT CITY! RO-BIT WAS AT THE SERVICE OF THE MAYOR! AM I RIGHT?

YES! AND UNTIL THIS MORNING IT WORKED PER-FECTLY!

IT OBEYED MY ORDERS! IT WENT SHOPPING! IT COOKED! IT TIDIED UP...

... IT DESTROYED THE SQUARE, IT KIDNAPPED A CITIZEN AND BARRICADED ITSELF IN THE TOWN HALL...

EXACTLY! THE HOSTAGE IS *ADAM FIELD!* GARDENER AND GRASS CUTTER, RIGHT?

EXACTLY, HE IS VERY WELL-KNOWN IN OUR LITTLE COMMUNITY!

WHEN DO YOU INTEND TO FREE HIM? ARE YOU WAITING FOR THE ROBOT TO GIVE YOU *CONDITIONS?*

OOPS! I THINK THAT I HAVE KICKED UP SOME DUST!

RECORD EVERYTHING, CAMERA 9!

IT'S TRUE! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

RIGHT! WE, CITIZENS, DO NOT FEEL SECURE!

STOP, STOP! JOHN! ANNA! STAY CALM!

THIS IS A PRESS CONFERENCE AND YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE!

BUT, WHILE YOU TALK, THAT MONSTER IS DESTROYING OUR COMMUNITY!

YES! TAKE HIM DOWN! DESTROY HIM! DO SOMETHING!

STOP WITH THESE ELECTRONIC CARTS! WE DON'T WANT THEM!

RAGE, SCREAMS, PANIC.

WHERE ARE, TODAY, THE SMILES AND WORDS?

THE NEWSPAPERS ARE GIVING A NAME TO THIS NEW COLLECTIVE PANIC...

CLC

ROBOPHOBIA

che tempo a Placidy avvengono
ni.é di dieci giorni fa la notizia
vamento del corpo di un uomo
identità ancora sconosciuta.
be trattasi di un nostro
tadino ma per ora la polizia ha
di mantenere il massimo riserbo

sempre che il sin
di volersi intere
alla vicenda se
meandri della
giorno in giorno
che hanno ormai dimenticato i tempi in cui
la nostra era considerata una città modello.
Le strade cittadine offrono scenari di
guerra e gli edifici sono ormai diventati
fra la polizia e il robot

attività antirobot
promettono battaglia in favore
beniamino.
"Ro-bit se necessario",dice
Colbert.Ma una parte dei citta
come lui, e u

THEY'RE CALLING IT *ROBOPHOBIA*.

MY BEST FRIEND

BEST FRIEND

R-BIT

DO YOU STILL HAVE A HEADACHE, LYLA?

I ASK MYSELF... WHY DO YOU TRUST ME?

IN THE END I AM A ROBOT AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO CREATED ME!

SURELY NOT THE ROBOLAB! THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS THAT I TRUST YOU!

RO-BIT COULD NOT HAVE SIMPLY GONE HAYWIRE!

DON'T WORRY! THINGS COULD HAVE GOTTEN WORSE...

LISTEN! TWO YEARS AGO, BEFORE RO-BIT CHANGED, I *GREETED* HIM!

"IT WAS A SIMPLE, SPONTANEOUS GESTURE, CONNECTED IN SOME WAY TO MY *PAST!*"

"WITHOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT, I JUST OPENED MY HAND..."

"... AND THEN I CLOSED IT, MAKING IT INTO A FIST!"

"RO-BIT REPEATED THE GESTURE AND I FELT THAT THERE WAS A CERTAIN KIND OF *CONNECTION* BETWEEN US!"

HE WASN'T JUST A *CAN* WITH CIRCUITS! YOU UNDERSTAND, NOW?

OF COURSE... I JUST NEED TO KNOW YOU UNDERSTAND THAT EVEN ROBOTS CAN HAVE FEELINGS!

ANYWAY, I HAVE ALREADY DECIDED *TO BE THE HERO* ON MY OWN!

YOU WANT TO GET INTO THE TOWN HALL?

YES, BUT I'LL DO IT WITHOUT YOU! YOU NEED TO KEEP THIS PEST AWAY FROM ME!

COLLEAGUE! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WRITE YOUR *PIECE?*

ANGUS! EXPLAIN WHY YOU FOLLOW ME EVERYWHERE!

ASK TOM WATERMAN! HE WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU!

THE TRUTH IS THAT LYLA IS MORE TALENTED THAN YOU AND YOU'RE JUST AFTER HER *CRUMBS!*

WHY DON'T YOU JUST WALK AWAY, LITTLE SAILOR?

IF YOU AREN'T CAPABLE, GO AWAY IMME-DIA-TELY! I HAVE OTHER THINGS TO DO!

GOOD! AND NOW... WHAT DO YOU SAY ABOUT *COLLABORATING* WITH A REAL PRO-FESSIONAL?

HA! A TELEPHONE CABIN! THE IDEAL PLACE TO TRANSFORM INTO A *SUPERHERO!*

SNORT! SPOKEN TOO SOON! THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE TO MOVE IN HERE!

WHAT A FANTASTIC CITY! ANTIQUE EXTERIOR AND INTERNALLY HYPER-TECHNOLOGICAL!

ONE! THERE IS NOT ENOUGH SPACE FOR A *CROWD* OF TWO PEOPLE!

HELLO! PUT IN YOUR PLACIDY CARD CODE, PLEASE!

HUH? WHAT IS THIS?

DO YOU WANT TO USE THE VIDEO-TELEPHONE OR NAVIGATE THE NETWORK?

A VIRTUAL HOSTESS! NOT BAD!

GET HER OUT OF HERE! I NEED TO CHANGE!

DO YOU SEE THEM?

YES! FOUR MEN! TWO OUTSIDE AND TWO IN THE OTHER BUILD-ING!

HOW CAN YOU SEE THE PEOPLE INSIDE THE BUILDING?

FEMININE INTUITION?

RIGHT! WELL, THERE IS A REASON WHY I BOUGHT YOU WITH ME...

WAIT, LET ME GUESS! DO YOU WANT ME TO DISTRACT THE POLICE, TO *BE-WITCH THEM?*

I TO GET IN THERE! THEY'RE GUARDING THE HOUSE OF THE PERSON KIDNAPPED!

AND YOU CAN *SMELL* A STORY! OBVIOUSLY! BUT YOU CAN FORGET IT BE-CAUSE I WON'T BE BAIT!

IF ADAM FIELD LIVES IN THE OTHER BUILDING, WHO LIVES IN THE VILLA?

AN OLD RETIRED LADY! *DEMETRA PITCHOT!* AND I WANT TO INTER-VIEW HER!

THE POLICE REPORTED THAT SHE IS SHOCKED ABOUT HER TENANT'S KIPNAPPING!

MAYBE THEY WANT TO PROTECT HER FROM JOURNALISTS! OR MAYBE... SOMETHING ELSE IS GOING ON!

AM 285 PD

TWO MEN DRESSED STRANGELY! THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE POLICEMEN!

THEY BELONG TO THE *FOREST CORPS*, BUT I'M ALWAYS AT COLBERT'S SERVICE!

MANY TERRITORIES CLOSE TO PLACIDY ARE *PROTECTED!* THIS ZONE IS A NATIONAL PARK!

YOU'RE WELL-INFORMED, FROM WHAT I CAN TELL!

I TOLD YOU! YOU'RE DEALING WITH A REAL PRO-FESSIONAL AND...

... BUT... BUT WHERE ARE YOU GOING? SOMEONE WILL SEE YOU?

RELAX, PROFESSIONAL! WHILE YOU WERE BLABBERING, THE POLICEMEN WENT AWAY!

I'VE TAPPED INTO THEIR RADIOFREQUENCIES AND I REPRODUCED THE *SHERIFF'S* VOICE!

WHAT GREAT LUCK! THEY MUST HAVE GOTTEN A CALL!

RIGHT, BUT I WAS THE ONE WHO MADE IT HAPPEN, BY SIMPLY USING MY *CEREBRAL RADIO IMPULSES!*

"SOMETIMES IT ISN'T THAT BAD BEING *ARTIFICIAL*..."

PLACIDY HAS A NICE BIG SEWER NETWORK! HERE IN DUCKBURG IT'S MUCH MORE CHAOTIC!

SORRY IF I DON'T APPRECIATE THE ARCHITECTURAL BEAUTY OF THIS SMELLY CAVE!

GOING UNDERGROUND IS THE ONLY WAY TO GET THROUGH THE BARRIER TO THE TOWN HALL!

BUT YOU CAN'T SEE ANY-THING! WITH MY LUCK, I'LL PROBABLY END UP IN THE WATER!

USE THE EXTRATRANS-FORMER! BUT FIRST, ACTIVATE THE *DENSE-MORPHIC* COMMAND!

THAT WAY, YOU'LL TRANSFORM THE TELECAM-ERAS...

... LIGHT! SIGH!

... INTO A COM-FORTABLE *SHIELD!*

I'VE GOT IT, YOU BIG FLUORES-CENT HEAD! BUT WHERE IS THE...

UMM! I THINK THE *LIGHT* WENT OUT!

NOW STOP! TRUE HEROES DON'T HIDE IN THE SEWERS!

TRUE HEROES DON'T TRY TO GET THROUGH THE BARRIERS OF THE FORCES OF ORDER!

I'M GETTING OUT! I'LL TRY TO GET THROUGH!

WAIT! I'LL OPEN THIS MANHOLE AND YOU'LL BE IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THE POLICEMEN!

?

CLUNK

AND, THIS TIME, IT WILL *HELP ME TOO!*

GET CLOSER TO THAT VAN! SOMETHING INTERESTING WILL HAPPEN!

THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR *TELL-TALES!* THE TOWN HALL IS CLOSE-BY!

THEREFORE IT'S TRUE THAT LUCK HELPS THE BOLD!

FORESTER

G6741

YOU *HAVE* TO HEAR THIS CONVERSA-TION!

TWIIN

THE ONLY WAY TO HUNT OUT THE ROBOT IS TO USE *ANOTHER* ROBOT!

I WANT RO-BIT *DE-STROYED!*

HUH? THAT'S MAYOR MORRISON'S VOICE!

THE LICENSE *SIGMA 332* IS COMING! IT'S A PROTOTYPE FOR *ASSAULT DROIDS!*

YOU'VE SAID THAT YOU HAVEN'T *TESTED* IT YET, RIGHT?

YES! IT WASN'T EASY TO GET THE PERMISSION FROM THE ROBOLAB *SHAREHOLDERS* TO USE IT!

GOOD! IT WON'T BE ANYONE'S FAULT IF A BLOW OR TWO HAPPEN...

... AND THE POOR *HOSTAGE* WILL BE IN THE MIDDLE! HE, HE!

"ADAM FIELD IS MORE THAN A CASUAL HOSTAGE!"

OTHERWISE, WHY GO INTO THE GUEST HOUSE AND TRY TO DESTROY THESE DOCUMENTS?

THIS IS VERY INTERESTING! LUCKILY, ANGUS IS BUSY WITH PITCHOT, AT THE VILLA!

... ALSO, ADAM KEPT A PERFECTLY MANICURED GARDEN! HE'S A SOLITARY MAN, DOESN'T TALK WITH ANYONE AND DOESN'T HAVE FRIENDS... AS FOR ME I'M ALONE RIGHT NOW AND MY THIRD HUSBAND...

SIGH! AND THIS IS THE OLD LADY WHO IS AFRAID OF JOURNALISTS?

ANYWAY, IT WILL BE EASY FOR ME TO PIECE THIS NOTE BACK TOGETHER! IT LOOKS LIKE POETRY!

THE BOY LOVES TO RAP AND TAKE PHOTO-GRAPHS IN HIS FREE TIME!

A FRIEND HE IS TO ME.
MADE OF CRYSTAL AND METAL,
JUST LIKE A KETTLE
AND HE IS FULL OF GLEE...

THE FORMAT IS MESSY, BUT THE *SUBJECT* IS COMPLETELY CLEAR...

... AND THIS BURNED *PHOTOGRAPH* SAYS MORE THAN A THOUSAND WORDS!

A ROBOT AMONGST FLOWERS?

A *CONVENIENT* IMAGE... BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A BIG DIS-COVERY!

IT SHOWS THAT RO-BIT AND ADAM FIELD WERE NOT AT ALL *STRANGERS!*

WHY WOULD THE DROID WANT TO KIDNAP HIS FRIEND?

GET SERIOUS! MACHINES DON'T HAVE FEELINGS!

RIGHT, I FORGOT! WELL, SINCE WE'RE WORKING, NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, ANGUS!

THE OLD LADY SEEMED SYMPATHETIC, EVEN THOUGH HER COMMENTS WERE VERY RANDOM!

BUT A GOOD JOURNALIST MUST KNOW HOW TO *EXTRAPOLATE* THE RIGHT WORDS!

STOP TAKING IN AIR AND EMPTY THE BAG! WHAT DID YOU FIND?

DID YOU KNOW THAT OUR HOSTAGE SPENDS A LOT OF TIME IN A LITTLE GARDEN NEAR THE STREET?

PM116842

TIGHT TELEPHONE CABINS! DARK SEWER CANALS AND TERRIBLE ODORS! AND NOW... *THIS!*

GOING THROUGH THE VENTILATION CONDUITS OF THE TOWN HALL WAS THE ONLY WAY TO...

... GET THROUGH THE BARRICADE TO THE COUNCIL ROOM! I KNOW!

I MUST ADMIT THAT THE ROBOLAB SPECIAL FORCES SEEM SOMEWHAT THREATENING!

ROBOLAB

BUT WE COULD HAVE *FLOWN* TO THE ROOF! THE CHOSEN MARKSMEN WOULD HAVE NEVER NOTICED ME AND...

SSSH! KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!

I BLOCKED YOUR PRESENCE IN THE RO-BIT SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, BUT HE CAN ALWAYS HEAR YOU!

ONCE YOU GET TO THE MUNICIPAL ROOM, I'LL NEED TO ONLY PROBE THE ZONE AND THEN...

YOU KNOW WHAT? I'LL PROBE EVERY-THING *AFTER* I'VE GONE INTO ACTION!

WAIT! DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF, OKAY?

DID YOU HEAR THOSE NICE GUYS OUT THERE? VERY SOON THERE WILL BE THE END OF THE WORLD!

WHEN I CHOSE YOU AS A GUARDIAN OF THE EARTH, I DIDN'T EVALUATE CERTAIN CHARACTER ATTRIBUTES!

YOU JUST *UNDER-ESTIMATED* ME! MANY PEOPLE DO!

RIGHT OR WRONG!

SBAAM

booooosh

BUITZZ

ARE YOU THERE, YOU BIG ROBOT! PUT YOUR PINCERS UP!

NO! DON'T SHOOT!

BUIZZZ

HE... HE DOESN'T WANT TO HURT YOU!

HE DOESN'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE!

SO, IS EVERYTHING OKAY?

YES. BRIGIT Q WILL COLLABORATE!

SHE'S DECIDED TO MAKE A CAREER WITH THE AGENCY! THIS IS THE WAY SHE SHOWS IT!

FLASH

A-AH, LOOK WHO WE HAVE HERE!

MAYOR AND AGENCY ALL IN ONE SWOOP! CAMERA 9, GET IT INTO THE FRAME!

GET RID OF THESE LEECHES AND GET BACK TO THE TOWN HALL!

I'LL BE THERE AT ONCE.

HEY! CALM DOWN, COLBERT! THERE IS A *LAW* AGAINST WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO DO!

SCRIBBLING BUSYBODY!

GLUD

YOU SHOULD NOT TALK POORLY OF JOURNALISTS! AT LEAST, NOT IN THEIR PRESENCE!

?

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY CAR?

I'LL ASK THE QUESTIONS HERE!

YOU WON'T ASK ANY...

I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT YOU STAY CALM, MISTER MORRISON! I'M ALREADY QUITE *MODIFIED!*

W-WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

JUST TO TELL YOU A STORY!

IT'S ABOUT A SOLITARY AND INTROVERTED BOY NAMED ADAM AND A ROBOT OUTSIDE OF THE TOWN HALL: RO-BIT!

"THE TWO FOUND THEMSELVES AT THE BORDER OF A PERFECT CITY, AND THEY IMMEDIATELY BECAME GREAT FRIENDS!"

"BUT RO-BIT WORKED FOR THE MAYOR OF THAT CITY, WHO CONSIDERED HIM NOT MUCH MORE THAN A DECORATIVE OBJECT!"

SNAP

"ON SOME OCCASIONS, THE ROBOT HEARD CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN HIS BOSS AND THE SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY..."

"THE TWO WERE TALKING ABOUT A MILLIONS OF DOLLARS DEAL, CONNECTED TO SOME *TOXIC WASTE* DUMPED IN A *NATURAL PARK!*"

"NO ONE WOULD EVER KNOW ANYTHING, IF THE SHERIFF HIMSELF SUPERVISED THE FOREST GUARD!"

"BUT THE LOADING TRUCKS MOVED DAY AND NIGHT ON A CERTAIN EXCAVATED STREET..."

"... PASSING CLOSE TO ADAM'S GATE, SO HE DECIDED TO REPORT IT TO THE SHERIFF!"

VROOOOM

"ONE MORNING, THE OFFICER AND HIS MEN TRIED TO *SI-LENCE* THE YOUNGSTER, BUT THEY HAD A SURPRISE..."

"... RO-BIT TRIED TO HELP HIS FRIEND! THERE WAS A SCUFFLE! THERE WAS A SHOOTING! THEN, THE *FUSE!*"

"THE FORCES OF ORDER PURSUED THE ROBOT TO THE CITY AND HE AND ADAM DECIDED TO BARRICADE THEMSELVES IN THE TOWN HALL!"

YOU ALREADY KNOW THE REST OF THE STORY! AM I RIGHT?

HE, HE! YOU HAVE A GREAT IMAGINATION, MISS, BUT YOU'RE MISSING THE *END!*

SOMEONE INVESTIGATED AND DISCOVERED THAT THERE IS NO *TRACE* OF TOXIC WASTE...

... AND THAT EVEN THE *WITNESSES* DON'T EXIST ANYMORE!

ARMED CHARGE OF *PATENT SIGMA 332* COMPLETE! LET'S START THE *RAID!*

GLONK

CLANG

TRRRRRR

NO! I WON'T GO AWAY! DON'T YOU SEE? HE'S DAMAGED!

YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO ME AND GET INTO THE *PIPES*, MY FRIEND!

THERE IS SOMETHING OUT THERE WITH ORDERS TO DESTROY RO-BIT AND ALL WITNESSES!

BUT I... I...

"AS HE WILL DEMONSTRATE!"

BUZZZ

DON'T THINK I'M *INSENSITIVE*, BUT TEARY GOOD-BYES ALWAYS HAPPEN AT THE WRONG TIME!

F.O.A.B

TIME SELECTION
ATTACK PROTOCOL
PREVENTIVE TARGETS:
2
INCLUDE TARGETS?
YES
NO
OUR FRIENDS ARE NOT *ALONE*, FROM WHAT I CAN TELL!
NO PROBLEM! I ONLY NEED TO CHANGE SIGMA 332 *TACTICS!*
PIK
VRRRR
T-CLANK
ONE! SO, CAN YOU COME BACK NOW? I DIDN'T OFFEND YOU BEFORE, DID I?
WHO, ME? JUST TRY TO HURRY UP! THAT *PLASMA* WEAPON COULD SHOOT FROM ONE MO-MENT...
TWIIIIINN
FTOOOoMMM
... TO THE NEXT!

SHA

KAAAM

WOOOOOOOO

SHA FRZZ

FRAZZ

KRZZZZ

SHIIIISSS

BUT... BUT WE ARE NOT IN PIECES?!

OF COURSE! THAT OLD DROID DOESN'T KNOW THAT THE EXTRANS-FORMER HAS A COUNTER-ENERGY PROTECTIVE SHIELD!

I-IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! IT WAS STRUCK BY THE REBOUND OF HIS OWN RAYS!

SHALL WE INTERVENE?

ARE YOU JOKING? LET'S EVACUATE THE AREA! THE PATENT SIGMA 332 IS DAMAGED...

T-KLAK

T-KLAYK

... AND I DON'T KNOW HOW IT WILL ACT IN THESE SITUATIONS!

TIME

SELECTION

SYSTEM COMPROMISED

BROADENED ATTACK PROTOCOL

OBJECTIVE:

SHOOT EVERYONE

BRAAAAAAP

BRAAAAAAP

ROBOPHOBIA! IRRATIONAL FEAR OF EVERYTHING ARTIFICIAL.

IN THE CASE OF THE ROBOLAB MEN, THIS FEAR IS NOW MORE THAN JUSTIFIED.

THE PATENT SIGMA 332 DID NOT LEAVE ANYONE WHO CROSSED HIS VISION...

TA TA TA

BRAAAAAP

ZWIIIIIN

... HIS SENSORS REGISTERED THEIR BODY HEAT.

TA

TATATA

ZWIIIIIN

HE'S GOING AFTER ADAM, IN THE VENTILATION PIPES!

HEY! DID YOU FORGET ABOUT ME?

VOOOUVW"

FTOOM

SBAM

OUCH!

Vooooouuuna

NO!

ROBO

"A FRIEND..."

"... HE IS TO ME..."

"MADE OF CRYSTAL AND METAL."

"JUST LIKE A KETTLE."

"AND HE IS..."

"... FULL OF GLEE."

BOOOOM

GONE!

DAMNED MECHANICAL GRINDER!

ARE YOU REFERRING TO RO-BIT OR YOUR DEFECTIVE *KILLER*?

?

DUCK! IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT I HAVE A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO AT THE ROBOLAB!

WE'RE EVEN, THEN! I HAVE A LOT TO TELL AS WELL!

NO! YOU WON'T SAY ANYTHING TO *ANYONE!*

SVIT

PUNCH

I THOUGHT YOU WERE A GENTLEDUCK!

THIS TIME, I MADE AN EXCEPTION! AND IT WAS A *TRUE PLEASURE!*

WHAT HAPPENED TO ADAM?

HE CAME OUT OF THE VENTILATION PIPES! HE MUST BE WITH THE OTHER FUGITIVES!

"BY NOW, HE SHOULD ALREADY BE IN THE ARMS OF THE RESCUERS!"

LOOK, LOOK! THE *LITTLE FISH* ENDED UP IN THE NET!

WOULD YOU MIND FOLLOWING ME OVER HERE? WE HAVE *TO TALK!*

GET OUT OF HERE! WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!

DON'T YOU THINK THAT ADAM SHOULD CONSULT A *LAWYER*, SHERIFF?

?

I'LL SAY IT AGAIN, MISS LAY! HERE, JOURNALISTS HAVE A *BAD ENDING!*

SMASHMAN...

IMMEDIATELY, SHERIFF! EVEN THOUGH I DON'T LIKE HITTING WOMEN!

HUH?

STUMP

AAAAAAH!

WELL, I DON'T LIKE *HITTING MEN*, EITHER!

PPD 1875

I FOUND HIM! ADAM FIELD IS BEHIND THE TOWN HALL!

FLY!

BUT WHAT...

EVERYTHING IS FINE SUPERDUCK! WE DON'T NEED HEROES OVER HERE!

LYLA!

WHAT CAN I SAY? YOU DID A *GREAT JOB!* LUCKILY, YOU GOT HERE IN TIME!

I'M SORRY TO CONTRADICT YOU...

... BUT I GOT HERE TOO LATE!

... AND THIS CONCLUDES THE STORY OF CORRUPTION AT PLACIDY AND OF ITS HEROIC ROBOT!

THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES FOUND HIS REMAINS IN A SORT OF *BLACK BOX*...

... IN WHICH, PRACTICALLY, HIS ENTIRE ARTIFICIAL LIFE WAS RECORDED!

I AM WELL-INFORMED IN THE COMPROMISING CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE SHERIFF AND THE MAYOR...

... AND THE HAVE TAKEN GREAT INTEREST IN ADAM FIELD'S TESTIMONY ABOUT THE ROBOT'S ELIMINATION!

THE OBEDIENT RO-BIT, WHO NEVER SPOKE A WORD THROUGHOUT HIS ENTIRE EXISTENCE, SPEAKS TODAY...

... AND SAYS EVERYTHING THAT PLACIDY WOULD HAVE NEVER WANTED TO HEAR!

MY COMPLI-MENTS, ANGUS! A WONDERFUL REPORT!

THANKS, BOSS! IF I SAID THAT I ONLY DID WHAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO, THEN I WOULD BE LYING!

I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THE *TRAIL* OF TOXIC REFUSE FOR A WHILE, BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD END IN PLACIDY!

WITHOUT WANTING TO, THE OLD LADY, PITCHOT, OPENED MY EYES! YOU KNOW HOW...

... A GOOD JOURNALIST MUST KNOW HOW TO EXTRAPOLATE THE RIGHT WORDS!

TOO BAD THAT LYLA'S ATTEMPT TO MAKE THE MAYOR CONFESS FAILED!

RO-BIT'S RECORDINGS HAVE ALREADY INCRIMINATEDSS HIM...

... AND IT WAS LYLA WHO SUGGESTED THAT THEY LOOK AT HIS BLACK BOX!

I KNOW, I KNOW! NOT EVERYTHING WAS BECAUSE OF ME, *THIS TIME!*

CRACK

I'LL ONLY SAY THAT, HAD I KNOWN BEFORE, I WOULDN'T HAVE TRIED *ENTERTAINING* THE SHERIFF FOR SO LONG!

ADAM, THESE PEOPLE CAME BY TO SEE YOU! DO YOU WANT TO TALK TO THEM?

YES, MISS PITCHOT! THANK YOU!

YOU KNOW SOMETHING? MY FRIEND RO-BIT DIDN'T NEED TO SPEAK IN ORDER TO SAY HELLO!

YOU GOT EVERYTHING? DIDN'T YOU HAVE TO INTERVIEW ADAM FOR YOUR WEB-JOURNAL?

HE BASICALLY TOLD ME EVERY-THING THAT I NEEDED TO KNOW!

I JUST NEED TO MAKE IT ABOUT FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN A HUMAN BEING AND A ROBOT...

... AND NOW I KNOW THAT TO GET OVER CERTAIN BARRIERS...

... YOU JUST NEED A *SIMPLE GESTURE!*

THE END

200
PROOF
ELLIS
ROCK
HARD
SMOKING GUN
WHISKY
BACK OFF
ENTER
SEX
OPEN